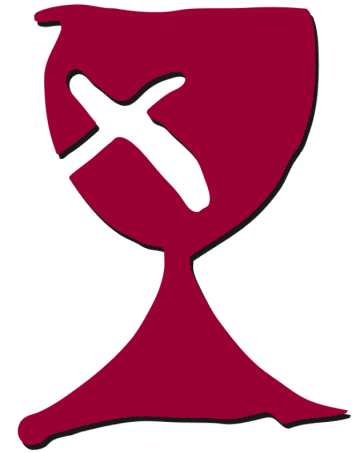


# Newsletter

January 2010

## ***Cookies for Our College Students***

On Sunday, January 31, CCC will package cookies to send to all our college kids to remind them that their church family loves and misses them while they are away. The younger Sunday school children will decorate the containers and the older children will be writing letters. Families are asked to bring three dozen home-baked cookies to church. If you have a college student in your family, please contact the church office with his/her address.



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## ***ALIVE!***

5<sup>TH</sup> AND 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS



## ***Alive! Supports Souper Bowl***

On Sunday February 7, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Drop your donation in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 7. Those who need help may not know that you cared, but God will. And our young people in the Alive! youth group are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts. Thank you.

**REVIVE!** & **ALIVE!**

News on Page 3



**March 6, 2009**  
**CCC Birthday Dinner  
& Auction**

# Michael's Musings

## Grace-full Beginnings

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The start of a new year is a wonderful time to look forward. We often make “resolutions” in which we challenge ourselves to strive for some future goal. The future can seem so ripe and full of potential. As Christians, we know the promise of the future by our faith in Jesus Christ - the one who secures our future and unlocks the true possibility for us all through the power of forgiveness.

There is future grace awaiting us, and the New Year is a wonderful time to remember our future! Yet, we are also a people of past grace, afloat in the goodness of a God who supports us and brings us into the present. So despite the forward looking time of year we have entered, I want to direct our attention backward, to the past.

Watching a church without a full-time senior pastor can be like watching a new-born animal stumble around fresh from the womb. Poor vision, awkward and tentative movement, and the powerful anxiety of an uncertain future might characterize how we've emerged, as a church, from the womb of full-time pastoral leadership.

Awkward as we may be in this transition time, God has been at work in and among the people of CCC - we have not been left alone to stumble about by ourselves. Yes we have moved clumsily at times through these months without a senior pastor. But God has been with us, bringing forth leaders. We have managed to join our hearts and hands in worship, we have continued to meet in fellowship, to plan with committees, and to give care to those in need. We have come together and been a church. Thanks be to God!

The Elders, led by Kay Severns, have stepped up as worship leaders during this time. The worship committee, in conjunction with a host of others dubbed “the transition committee,” and anchored by Jayne Zimmerman, has helped plan for scripture readings, prayers, music, and worship themes. Judy Mankus, our church secretary - or administrative general, as I prefer to call her as I salute - has been the glue of communication for numerous committees and events. Yes, so many have continued their good work with perseverance and high hopes for the future of our church. What a blessing it is to be in the midst of faithful and steadfast leaders working together for God's glory.

As we move into the new year, let us not forget that God's grace has sustained us as a church by providing energetic leaders, cooperative insights, and an environment of forgiveness and flexibility. Lack of full-time pastoral leadership comes with stress, difficulties, and occasional break-downs in communication - it can be an awkward time which feels anything but graceful. Mistakes have been made along the way, sometimes in planning and executing worship services; sometimes in organizing events and taking care of others. Still, though we may stumble forward awkwardly, God's grace fills us. God's grace continually reminds us that even in the midst of challenging and uncertain times, we are a people of forgiveness and promise. And so we fall back on that forgiveness and promise as we turn to face a new year. Let us remember that our beginning is forged in grace - not our own, but God's! - just as our future is made possible by grace. In this, we can be thankful, grateful, even hopeful; for awkward as we may be at times, we are truly grace-full.

# CCC Youth Page

**ALIVE!** **REVIVE!**

5<sup>TH</sup> AND 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS 7<sup>TH</sup> through 12<sup>TH</sup> Graders

## Mark Your Calendars Great Things Are Happening in January!

**Sunday, 3rd** ..... No event  
No Sunday School for Youth

**Sunday, 10th** ..... **Revive Mystery Trip**  
11:45am ~3pm, Bring money for lunch (\$10)  
Youth Sunday School

**Sunday, 17th** ..... **Youth Sunday**  
10am worship service

**Friday, 22nd** ..... **Revive Lock-in**  
**Saturday, 23rd** .... **Alive! Breakfast & Activity**  
with Revive 9 am

**Sunday, 24th** ..... **No event**  
Youth may stay in worship or help with children

**Sunday, 31st** ..... **No event**  
Youth may stay in worship or help with children

**Friday, February 19th** ..... **Alive! Lock Under**  
5-10 pm



Paige Ekenberg & Madison Blakeslee  
sharing a giggle



Danny Dollinger hangin' out with his girls,  
Gwenna Heidkamp & Ruby Mankus



Sarah Steele, Callum Hogan, Emily & Ruby  
Mankus are munchin' at the luncheon



Callum Hogan just hangin' out





### **Crossroads Bible Study**

Sundays, 9 am  
resuming on January 10

### **Prayer Group**

Tuesdays, 9 a.m.

### **Choir Practice**

Wednesdays, 7 pm  
Resuming on January 6

### **Men's Breakfast**

Saturday, January 9, 8 am

### **Putting Christmas Away**

Saturday, January 9, 9 am

### **Birthday Dinner Meeting**

Sunday, January 10, 11:30 am

### **Soup Kitchen**

Wednesday, January 13, 4 pm

### **Youth Sunday**

January 17, 10 am Worship Service

### **Ministries Council Meeting**

Sunday, January 24, 11:30 am

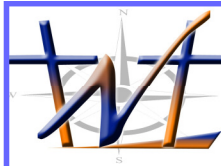
## **CCC Men's Breakfast and Book Discussion**

The CCC Men's Group extends a hearty invitation to all who would like to come to the monthly men's breakfast in Thompson Hall. The event takes place from 8 to 9 am on January 9. After the breakfast, your help would be greatly appreciated as we take down and store the Christmas decorations. We order (in advance) take-out from McDonalds, socialize, and newcomers are always welcome to stop by and join the fellowship. Please contact Charlie Service at 847-236-0608 if you would like to place your breakfast order -- or for more information -- or just come by the church on January 9. And if you're a regular -- why not think about extending an invitation to a friend?



## **Crossroads Bible Study**

Crossroads will resume January 10th studying the Minor Prophets. Please consider joining us to contribute your input, knowledge, curiosity as we look at the men of old who made some interesting prophecies.



The Twenties and Thirties Group will meet on Friday, January 29 at 7:30 pm. Join us in fellowship with one another and discussion of the second chapter of our book *How to Be an Open Minded Christian without Losing Your Faith*. If you want the book or have questions about TNT, please contact Michael: [ccc michael@comcast.net](mailto:ccc michael@comcast.net). The fellowship and conversation will be open and accessible, intentionally including those who have not been able to read the book.



## Who Are The Disciples?



The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Visioning Team for our denomination has created a new Disciples Identity Statement. In each newsletter, we'll examine aspects of this statement to better understand who we are as Disciples.

**"We anticipate God's coming reign, seeking to serve the God - Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer - whose loving dominion has no end."**



As Disciples, we have a robust vision of the future. The season of Advent, which culminates with Christmas, is about disciplining ourselves to "anticipate" what God has promised just like those who waited for the messiah. The Advent season is not simply a time to "repeat the past," but is a moment in the church year propelling us into the future; we need the discipline of the past as we anticipate our future.

We believe there is still much to come - God has promised an unending "loving dominion." This is a world ordered by peace and justice, where God's love saturates every heart. A world we wait for like the people of Israel waited for the messiah. This is a world which seems so distant, and yet one which might break in at any moment; just as Jesus broke into the world so unexpectedly.

In truth, we receive foretastes of God's promised dominion - it is not an alien future. As we work for peace and justice with the spirit of God's love, we sense in part what we wait for in fullness. And so we live in anticipation, remembering that the same God who created the world and who redeemed the world in Christ, is the very God who draws us into the hoped for tomorrow.

## Thank You!!

Thank you to all of you who made a happy Christmas for many by contributing Tree of Light gifts.

Thank you to those who went to the Soup Kitchen in December:

Josh Dou  
Pip Gledhill  
Chris Lausche  
Ruby, Emily & Judy Mankus  
Chuck Osicka

Thank you to Lucia Theonsen and Linda Newberg for coordinating such a festive luncheon during our Lighting Up Christmas celebration.

Thank you to the following families for your readings during advent:

The Breiler family  
The Heidkamp family  
The Richardson family  
The Short family

Thank you to our Acolytes during Advent - you really brightened our Christmas at CCC!

Erin & Sarah Steele  
Emelia & Sarah Larimer  
Grace Bracken & Ellen Zimmerman  
Bronwyn & Gwenna Heidkamp

Thank you to Perry Grace and Steve Gripper for hanging the Advent Banners and sprucing up the Youth Room.

Thank you to the worship committee for making the advent season so enjoyable and also for the new pew cushions.

Thank you to the CCC Transition Team for coordinating such meaningful worship services.

## More Thank Yous!!

Thank you to Beth & Marc McCormack for opening your home during the CCC Christmas party.

Thank you to Sue Beck for the BEST Christmas Pageant EVER!!

### Save Your Coffee Tins & Packing Peanuts

Over 30 coffee cans will be needed for Cookie Sunday on January 31. Also needed are plenty of packing peanuts. We will be sending cookies to



college students as part of CCC's birthday celebration. Please bring your cans and peanuts and place them in the kitchen. Thank you for your help!

## STEPHEN MINISTRY



at CCC

### What's Your New Year's Resolution?

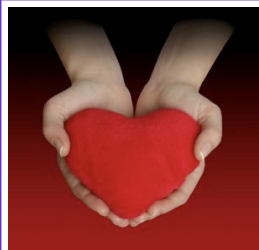
As we turn the page into a new month and a new year we find the opportunity to get a fresh start. Loose weight, exercise more, eat healthy food and stay away from snacks. We also consider improving relationships and becoming a "better" person.

But just how often do we think of making our relationship with our Lord closer and more meaningful? During the busyness of the Christmas season it's easy to get caught up in endless responsibilities. Way too often we actually find that the real "reason for the season" has been over-looked.

If you find that the pressures of life have stolen the joy of your faith, it may be time to meet with a Stephen Minister. Both Andrea Fisher (847-267-9796) and Char Schwan (847-949-9720) will be able to make the arrangements.

Let's make 2010 the year we exercise both our bodies and our faith!

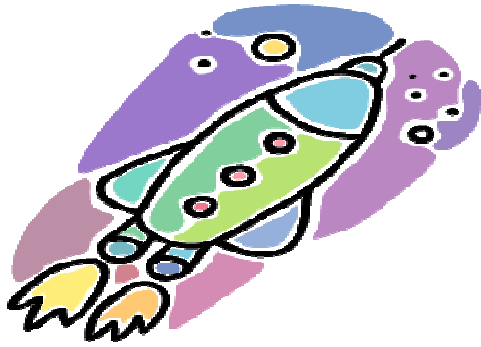
### Congregational Care



A calendar has been set up to coordinate meals for the Irvings via the website [www.carecalendar.org](http://www.carecalendar.org). If you would like to prepare a meal for the Irvings, just go to the website. On the site you will be prompted to login (calendar ID: 29018) to a calendar and enter a security code (8016). This will take you right to the calendar for Ann and Nelson. Then you can pick the date you would like, click on it and you will be prompted to enter your name and other information and Alice Reich will be notified that you have signed up for a date. The calendar is set up to run thru the end of February. Using this calendar will hopefully eliminate having to send multiple emails back and forth to coordinate dates with everyone and make everyone's life a little easier! If you have any problems accessing the calendar, please contact Alice Reich at 847 317-1023.

Ken Fisher is really enjoying his visitors. Thank you for taking the time to be with him. To set up a visit with Ken, please call Gill Hogan at 847 971-3165.





## CCC's Sunday School: Bible Lesson Activity STations

January B.L.A.ST. Theme:  
Good Samaritan

2009 -2010 Rotation

February: The Prodigal Son  
March: Woman with the Alabaster Jar  
April: Crucifixion and Resurrection  
May: Early Church as the Body of Christ



Thank you to all the participants in the Children's Christmas Program "Brightly the Light Shines":

- All the angels, animals, shepherds, kings and stars were wonderful!.
- The Holy family and narrators were superb! (The parents and youth that helped with costuming and supervision, you are appreciated and why it went as smoothly as it did this year.
- And to Ruth who stepped in the last minute to play the piano on a moment's notice!



**Campbell Breiler,  
Gant Davidson, Noah Short**



**Madison Blakeslee**



**Cooper Breiler, Victor Larimer**



**Sarah & Emelia Larimer, Ellen  
Zimmerman, Grace O'Neil**



**Caroline Reich, Maya Short**



**Brian Reich, Phelan Davidson**

# Happy Birthday!

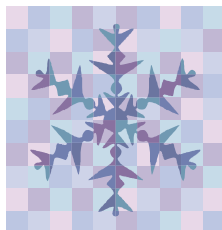
Kristin Wismer	1
Erin Steele	3
Jean Ubaudi	7
Bailey Martin	11
Dawn Hainsworth	13
Vicki Wright	14
Brian Wismer	15
Lucia Thoensen	17
Tommy Munger	21
Ping Fong	22
Madeleine Tobler	22
Mary Ives	23
Bob Borgstrom	24
Ellery Schell	24
Jeff Galitz	25
Kristin Keevins	25
Richardson	25
Pat Rodbro	25
Ashley Richardson	26
Amy Knowling	30
George Simmons	30
Chris Cabanban	31



## Winter Assistance is Available

For families under a certain income bracket, the website below can provide up to \$6,500 in equipment for preparation for winter. Click on this link for more information:

<http://www.ildceo.net/dceo/Bureaus/LIHEAP/>



# Happy Anniversary!

Nelson and Ann Irving	8
Barry and Margaret Lyerly	22
Ken and Andrea Fisher	23



## Sunday Coffee Fellowship

Here at Community Christian Church one of the great traditions that we have is our Coffee Fellowship gathering in Friendship Hall after our Sunday Service. The time, space, and treats provide a friendly and casual environment for the congregation and visitors to meet, catch up, or get to know each other better. It also provides us time and opportunities for discoveries, and ways to better serve and support our church families. Please make time for this valuable tradition and be an active participant.

We are blessed to have the treats provided by the following families in December:

Charlie Geyer  
The Wu family

If you are interested in providing treats for Coffee Fellowship, the signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the Friendship Hall. We ask that you bring treats for approximately 80 to 100 people. The treats could be bagels, cookies, brownies, cup cakes, coffee cakes, and/or fruits and vegetables. The table cloth, drinks, cups, plates, and napkins are provided by the church. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give Ping Fong a call at 847-405-0839.



## Upcoming Sermons

We have an exciting line-up of preachers visiting our church in January. We hope you will enjoy the diversity of preaching gifts, rejoice in the goodness of God's ever-present love, and celebrate with the body of Christ in the abundance of the cup and loaf. As our church is made new, renew your soul and nourish your spirit. We hope to see you on Sunday!



### January 3 - Andrew Packman

Andrew is a first Year student enrolled in the Divinity School at the University of Chicago. He is pursuing ordination in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

A native of Centralia, Illinois, Andrew was introduced to the Disciples as a freshman in high school and was baptized into the church the same year. He entered college as a Pre-Medical student, but after a powerful experience of Calling in his home church, he quickly changed paths to pursue a career in ministry.

Andrew spent the summer of 2005 living and working as a missionary with the Disciples of Christ in Appalachia. After completing his studies in England and at Loyola University Chicago, Andrew served for two years as a Licensed Youth Minister at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

In his spare time Andrew is a runner, enjoys reading and travelling (especially in large cities) and having good conversations over coffee.

### January 10 - Nelson Irving

Our very own and well-loved minister. A graduate of Phillips Theological Seminary with a Bachelor of Divinity, Nelson has served churches in Nebraska, Tennessee, and Illinois. He served as the Senior Minister at Community Christian Church from 1970 to 1982 and 1997 to 2004. Currently, Nelson focuses on pastoral care.

### January 17 - Jeff Langner

Jeff is one a member of Community Christian Church. He is a member of the Youth Leadership Team which plans, organizes and helps run youth related programs and events. Jeff is a faithful member of the choir, a devoted husband to Susan, and a father to Andrew.

The 10 am service will be entirely led by CCC youth.

### January 24 - James Coyl

Jim shared with us in November about "The Reign of Truth." Currently seeking ordination in the United Church of Christ, Jim is also a PhD student at Garret-Evangelical Theological Seminary. He served as a student minister at Glenview Community Church in the western suburbs of Chicago. He lives with his wife and 6 children in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

### January 31 - Rev. Susan Johnson Gullickson

Supervisor, Clinical Pastoral Education and Staff Chaplain; Mission and Spiritual Care at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital

Rev. Susan Gullickson is currently a certified ACPE Supervisor and Staff Chaplain in the department of Mission and Spiritual Care, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. Prior to that, Rev. Gullickson was a Pastoral Psychotherapist at The Counseling Center of First Presbyterian Church, Evanston, Illinois and Manager of Pastoral Care at Mather Lifeways.

Rev. Gullickson received her Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Psychotherapy from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Masters of Science in Educational Psychology and Counseling from University of Kentucky College of Education and Masters of Divinity from Yale Divinity School. She has been an ACPE member since 1976, AAPC member from 1989-2002 and was certified as Fellow in 1997. She also was a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, State of Illinois. Rev. Gullickson is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

## CCC's 2010 Directory

The new CCC Directory is in production and your help is needed! Please go to [http://www.archive.org/download/CCC\\_2010\\_Directory/Directory2010Draft.pdf](http://www.archive.org/download/CCC_2010_Directory/Directory2010Draft.pdf) and check your information. Please let the church secretary know what to change before January 15. If you would like to take a new photo for the photo directory, please contact the church secretary as well.

In the meantime, please make this change to your current directory:

### 2010 Directory



*Community  
Christian  
Church*

The Wisniewski's no longer use their land line/home telephone number.

They can be reached on their cell phones:

Brian: 847-414-9395

Lauren: 847-414-9262



## ***New Pew Cushions in the Sanctuary***

In early December, the Worship Committee arranged for replacing the cushions in the Sanctuary pews, choir chairs and the two ministers' chairs. What a wonderful improvement! The old cushions were the original ones from 1981 when the Sanctuary was constructed. A big thank you to Beth McCormick and Bev Pyster, co-chairs of the Worship Committee.

The purchase and installation of these new cushions was funded from the earnings from the Kathryn Westerberg-Viravec Memorial Fund. What's that? Read the article to the right.

## ***Kathryn Westerberg-Viravec Memorial Fund***

One of CCC's three memorial funds is the Kathryn Westerberg-Viravec Endowment Fund established in 1997. Although many of you may know John and Dottie Westerberg, you may not be aware of the background of this fund in memory of their daughter, Kathy.

During junior high and high school, Kathy Westerberg was very involved with CCC's youth groups. In fact, she was instrumental in bringing the entire Westerberg family to this church. After she went on to college, started her career, and married, she always had a soft spot in her heart for Community Christian Church. Kathy passed away on December 31, 1995 at the age of 29 after a battle with cancer.

In December 1997, John and Dottie Westerberg established the Kathryn Westerberg-Viravec Endowment Fund with a thoughtful and generous gift of \$25,000 to CCC. The purpose of this permanent fund is to produce earnings for the church to use to make repairs and address special projects and needs that are not covered by our general operating budget. The endowment principal will not be spent; only the earnings will be available for special uses. Since the inception of this fund donations from a number of CCC members have been added to the principle.

In 1999, earnings were used to replace the sliding glass doors in the kitchen of Friendship Hall. In 2001, earnings helped fund the Friendship Hall kitchen remodeling, giving us the entire south wall of cabinets, sink, disposal, and dishwasher. In 2003, an independent heating system for Thompson Hall was installed. And, in December, the new cushions for the Sanctuary pews and choir chairs were purchased with the earnings from this permanent fund.

When you sit in the pews in the Sanctuary with the new cushions, think of Kathy and how her love for this church continues to help us do God's work at CCC.

# CCC Prayer Page

Prayer works. At CCC, we have witnessed this truth time and time again, which is why we take prayer so seriously here. "I'm praying for you" isn't some empty platitude; it's a powerful promise! As Christians, when we pray, God listens. Names may be added to the prayer lists by submitting a blue prayer card during worship as well as by calling or emailing the church office.

## Long Term Prayer List

When a name is put on the long term prayer list, it will remain there for six months. At the end of that time period, it will be removed. If you feel a name needs to stay on the list beyond six months, simply resubmit the name when it is removed and it will gladly be added.

Amber Schmitt & family  
 Amy  
 Amy Knowling  
 Carrier/Fanning family  
 Channing Verbeck's family  
 Chris  
 Chris Putnam & family  
 Dickerson family  
 Dollinger family  
 Doris  
 Dunnett & Rich families  
 George  
 George Sanders  
 Grace & family  
 Howard Siegel  
 Ilene Pyster's family  
 Jacob  
 KC & family  
 Kreig, Brenda, and Kayleigh  
 Lieselotte Ferrin  
 Linley Barnes  
 Lorrie  
 Our Pastoral Search Committee  
 Our Stephen Ministry  
 Our Troops  
 Sara & Vincent Spagnuolo  
 Shawn Wilson & family  
 Susan

## Short Term Prayer List

Names added to the short term prayer list will appear for three consecutive weeks, after which, if there is need to continue, they will be moved to the long term prayer list.

<b>Amy Dohler</b>	<b>Liam Jessin</b>
<b>Ann Irving</b>	<b>Linda Gonzales from</b>
<b>Beth, Don, Ellen &amp; Tom</b>	<b>Chicago</b>
<b>Debbie &amp; boy's family</b>	<b>Mel Kalas</b>
<b>Ellen Peters</b>	<b>Michelle Wismer</b>
<b>Faye &amp; family</b>	<b>Nancy Boylan</b>
<b>Jill Holden</b>	<b>Nate &amp; Elena</b>
<b>Jonathan &amp; family</b>	<b>Peter</b>
<b>Ken Fisher &amp; family</b>	<b>Tina</b>
	<b>Wayne</b>

## Elder Prayer Campaign

For the month of January, the elders ask for prayers for two Disciples of Christ congregations in Illinois:

University Church in Chicago  
 First Christian Church in Chicago Heights

